

February 28, 2019

Greetings,

I am writing the committee to urge opposition to S.B 874, specifically sections 17 & 18.

As a graduated homeschool student and current college student I strongly oppose the idea of having DCF involved in any facet of homeschooling. The choice to homeschool gives children and families a wonderful option to explore and learn away from a public school or the public school classroom environment. In my homeschool experience, learning never stopped at the classroom door.

DCF oversight of homeschooling would not only greatly distort the purpose of homeschooling but would involve the state where it does not belong. This idea of having a failing state agency involved in home education is flawed. The fact that DCF cannot even handle the dire cases they already have should be the number one priority of this governing body, not overstepping parental rights and the rights to educate in a way that a parent sees fit for their child.

The Connecticut Supreme Court found in the case of the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Education Funding vs. Rell that there is "clear evidence of failing public schools, unequal treatment, and illiterate students beings graduated." This is the opposite of what we see in the homeschool community. Homeschoolers are some of the highest scoring students to take SAT's, have extremely high graduation rates, and excel in the collegiate world. This committee should not be focused on the great performances by homeschool students, but rather on the failing public school system.

I urge this committee to oppose this bill to protect the integrity of homeschooling and uphold the right to educational options of both children and parents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

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